

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of configuring a load balancer for  
dispatching client requests amongst a plurality of servers,  
said method comprising the steps of:

for each one of said plurality of servers, creating a  
configuration file containing parameters pertaining to said  
server to be applied for configuring a load balancing scheme  
for a plurality of servers that include said server;

storing each of said configuration files in a memory  
accessible to said load balancer;

reading said parameters from said configuration file for  
each of said servers; and

configuring said load balancer to dispatch client  
requests to said servers based on an algorithm using said  
parameters.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of storing  
each of said configuration files comprises storing said files  
on a memory local to the corresponding server.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein each of said  
configuration files has a file path and name in accordance  
with a standard file path and naming protocol.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said parameters comprise at least a health URL and content-based routing rules.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said content-based routing rules comprise a URL mask.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein said parameters further comprise time-of-day rules.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said parameters further comprise session affinity rules.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of servers comprise a server farm coupled to receive client requests via the Internet.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said configuration file are HTML files.

10. A computer readable product embodied on computer readable media readable by a computing device for configuring a scheme for balancing the servicing of client requests among a plurality of servers, said product comprising computer executable instructions for:

reading from a configuration file for each of said servers parameters pertaining to said server relevant to configuring a load balancing scheme for a plurality of servers, including each said server; and

5 configuring said load balancer to dispatch client requests among said servers based on an algorithm using said parameters.

11. The product of claim 10 wherein each of said configuration files has a file path and name in accordance with a standard file path and naming protocol.

12. A computing apparatus for performing load balancing of client requests among a plurality of servers, said apparatus comprising:

means for interfacing to a network to receive client requests directed to one of said plurality of servers via said network;

means for reading from a configuration file for each of said servers parameters pertaining to said server relevant to configuring a load balancing scheme for a plurality of servers, including each said server;

means for configuring said load balancer to dispatch client requests to said servers based on an algorithm using said parameters; and

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means for dispatching requests received via said network to said plurality of servers in accordance with said algorithm.